

MAINE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY



news release

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2002 MAINE CRIME STATISTICS

Crime in Maine during 2002 decreased a half a percentage point (-0.5%) from the previous year according to the Maine Department of Public Safety. The department's numbers also showed decreases in both violent crime (-1.1%) and property crime (-4.8%). Crime during 2001 increased +3.7 % over 2000, reversing four years of previous declines. Between 1997 and 2000, crime in Maine dropped a total of -22.9% (-6.9% in 2000, -5.6% in 1999, -1.7% in 1998 and -8.7% in 1997).

Public Safety Commissioner Michael P. Cantara praised the declining numbers but stressed there is additional work needed the areas of rape and domestic violence. "Law enforcement, victim advocates and prosecutors continue to work together and progress has been made in recent years, but our vigilance never ends. We must do more to protect the most vulnerable in our society," Cantara said.

Domestic violence assaults decreased -2.6% in 2002, reversing a two-year increase. There were 4,813 domestic assaults reported in 2002 compared to 4,944 in 2001. Domestic violence assaults increased the two previous years +10.2% in 2001 and +12.5% in 2000, but decreased in the two preceding years, -5.7% in 1999 and -8.7% in 1998.

Rape increased +20.3%, the fourth year in a row to show an increase. There were 391 rapes in 2002 compared to 325 in 2001. Rapes in previous years were 318 in 2000, 273 in 1999 and 229 in 1998.

In other violent crime categories, robbery increased 2.3% (from 263 to 269) and aggravated assaults decreased -9.7% (from 813 to 734).

There were 14 homicides in 2002, compared to 19 in 2001, 11 in 2000, 25 in 1999, 26 in 1998 and 19 in 1997. Of the 14 homicides in 2002, 3 stemmed from domestic violence (21%), involving family or household members or those involved in a relationship. Domestic violence homicides in recent years have accounted for nearly half of the deaths.

(MORE)

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For property crimes, burglary increased +0.9% (from 6,883 to 6,943) and larceny-theft increased +0.2% (from 24,457 to 24,501) while motor vehicle thefts decreased -12.9% (from 1632 to 1421), Arson decreased -18.7% (214 in 2001 to 174 in 2002). Property damaged in arson fires totaled \$1,993,446 during 2002 compared to \$2,020,852 lost in 2001.

The value of property stolen during 2002 was \$24,479,793 compared to \$25,835,246 in 2001. Police recovered \$7,600,038 of the stolen property for a 31.1% recovery rate, compared to the 2000 rate of 35.5%.

Overall crime in urban areas was virtually unchanged (+.01%). Urban areas are made up of communities having full time police agencies. Urban crimes that increased were rape (+14.8 %) and larceny-theft (+0.8%). Crimes showing declines in the urban areas were aggravated assault (-3.3%), burglary (-0.2%), motor vehicle theft (-8.9%) and arson (-16.0%). Robbery was unchanged from the previous year.

Rural areas, patrolled by State Police and Sheriffs' Departments, showed a decrease of -2.7%. Crimes increasing in the rural areas were rape (+38.7%), robbery (+35.3%) and burglary (+3.0%). Rural crimes declining were aggravated assault (-28.0%), larceny-theft (-2.8%), motor vehicle theft (-20.5%), and arson (-37.0%).

The crime numbers are tabulated each year by the Uniform Crime Reporting Division (UCR) of the Maine Department of Public Safety based on reported crimes from local, county and state law enforcement agencies. The UCR statistics show that 34,447 index offenses were reported to police during 2002, compared to 34,606 during 2001 for a decrease of -0.5%. Totals for prior years were 33,470 in 2000, 35,941 in 1999, 38,053 in 1998 and 38,626 in 1997.

Offenses comprising the crime index include murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft and arson. The 34,447 index offenses in 2002 represent a crime rate of 26.61 offenses per 1,000 people within Maine. That number compares to the national average of 41.60 offenses (in 2001). Maine's 2001 crime rate was 26.96.

The total number of persons arrested, summoned or cited by police decreased in 2002 by -3.5% (45,741 adults and 9,287 juveniles in 2002 compared to 47,090 adults and 9,951 juveniles in 2001). Adult arrests decreased by -2.7% and juvenile arrests decreased by -6.7% during 2002.

State, county and local police agencies cleared, mostly by arrest, summons or citation, 9693 offenses for a clearance rate of 28.1% in 2002 compared to the 28.8% rate for 2001. The crime rate for violent crime in Maine for 2002 was 1.09 offenses per 1,000 population compared to the national average of 5.1 per 1,000 (for 2001).

These numbers are preliminary and could change slightly by the time the annual “Crime in Maine” report is posted on the department’s web site later in the year. The 2002 figures, and crime numbers for previous years, are at www.maine.gov/dps under crime statistics. Questions about local trends should be directed to police chiefs, sheriffs or state police barracks for detailed local crime statistics.

2002, 2001, 2000, '99 &'98 Maine Crime Summaries

	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998
Overall Crime	-0.5%	+3.4%	-6.7%	-5.5%	- 1.7%
Rural Crime	-2.7%	+8.1%	-11.4%	+1. %	+10.8%
Urban Crime	+0.01%	+2.2%	-5.4%	-7.1%	-4.3%
Aggravated Assault	-9.7%	0%	+3. %	-25. %	+11.6%
Assault	-1.3%	+4.2%	+1.3%	+2.6%	+ .2%
Robbery	+2.3%	+6.9%	+25.5%	-25.5%	+1.9%
Burglary	+0.9%	+1.8%	-11.2%	-8.1%	+2. %
Auto Theft	-12.9%	+23.9%	-9.6%	-3.7%	-6.6%
Larceny-Theft	+0.2%	+2.7%	-6. %	- 4. %	-2.8%
Arson	-18.7%	+9.2%	-1. %	- 4. %	-20.5%
Rape	+20.3%	+2.2%	+16.5%	+19.2%	-9.1%
Domestic Violence	-2.6%	+10.2%	+12.5%	-5.7%	-8.7%
Murder	14	19	11	25	26
Adult arrests	-2.7%	+2. %	+2. %	-.05%	+7.2%
Juvenile arrests	-6.7%	-.5%	-7.3%	-7.9%	-8.1%